



Mikey's Journal by Mikey Dumire November 2025

I invite you to take a journey back to the good ole days. I will be sharing some of my memories with you. They may not all be exactly as you remember it; they are factual to the best of my memory. I hope you enjoy the journey with me.

Do you remember the Glo Worm? It was a plush, PJ armed worm and his head would light. The original Glo Warm was green with a night cap. Today, you can get them in different colors.



Mom didn't have an automatic washer until after I left home. She did have a tub and wash board and a wringer washer. She filled the wringer washer and the tub with water. She ran the clothes through the wringer and they fell in the rinse tub. Mom would turn the wringer around and after rinsing them, run through the wringer again. You had to be careful with your hands and fingers. Mom got caught in the wringer more than once. Although, one time it was particularly difficult to stop. She got her hand caught and it pulled her arm through almost to the elbow. She had a bad looking arm for several days.

As a kid, how many times did you have orange skin or see other kids with orange skin? There was a medicine in a dark bottle with a glass tube with a small ball on the end; the other end was attached to the lid. It was mercurochrome. It was used for absolutely EVERYTHING!



—bug bites, scrapes, cuts, everything—ha ha. I think if you would have severed a limb, your mom would slap some on the bloody nub and send you back outside. Mercurochrome is no longer sold in the United States due to its mercury content.



Save the Baby was supposed to be a cough suppressant that was rubbed on the chest. Dad would get a teaspoon with some sugar on it. He would drop a few drops of Save the Baby on this. He made us hold it in our mouth until the sugar dissolved, then swallow it. YUCK! NASTY AND MOR NASTY!

There is a toy that was popular when I was a kid and it is still around. Different design but the same concept. That is Easy Bake Oven. The one we used had a light bulb to bake the food. I tried to make a cake a couple times and it never got done. According to the directions, it always took at least twice the time. When my granddaughter was little, her Easy Bake had a heating element. It did a much better job. Either it was the improvement over or she was a better baker than I was. Today, she is a pretty darn good cook and baker.



New Version



Old version



Most young girls had a mood ring. Mood rings change colors with the wearer's body temperature. It is believed to fluctuate with their emotional state. Colors can be different depending on the manufacturer. Some of the colors are blue/green for calm and relaxed; yellow/orange for excited or nervous and red/black for stress or tense. Gray was for anxiety, dark blue or purple meant happiness, and dark purple for passion. The colors are associated with different moods but this is not scientifically proven.

A mini skirt was just as its name implies. The hemline was well above the knee; typically, at mid-thigh or shorter. To be called a mini skirt it was to be no more than 10 cm below the buttocks. Boots were mostly worn in conjunction to a mini skirt. They were mid-calf to knee high, square toed, black heeled and most generally white and very much in style.

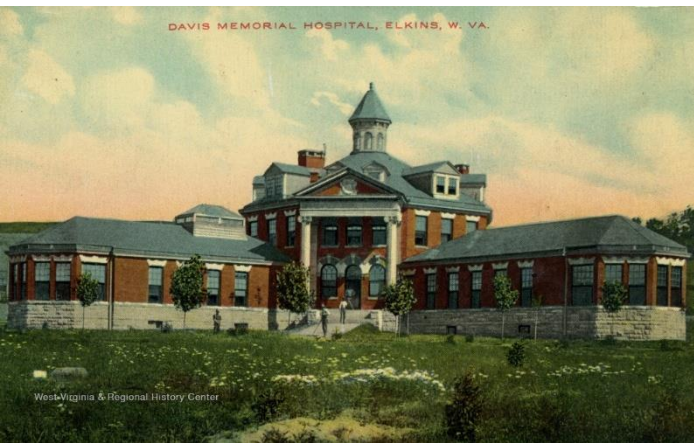
Valley Supply is located on Railroad Avenue in Elkins. It's a huge brick building that sells about any plumbing or heating parts you may need. It carries a line of hardware and building items you may need, plus offers ventilation items. It has been there since 1906. Recently, it was sold to Robertson Heating. It is probably one of the oldest and longest running store around. Going in there was a large counter and a lot of men working behind it. Of to the side was a small window; behind which was two ladies that took your money. One of them was named Barbara. I don't recall the other one's name, but both were very nice. Years later Barbara married one of our neighbors. When I worked at the Home Decorating Center, she came in a lot to purchase material or gifts. We got to be good friends. Sadly, she passed away a couple years ago; I miss seeing her.



When I was in high school, I got to go to Halliehurst. You will best know Halliehurst as one of the two stately mansions that graced the hillside of Davis and Elkins college. Senator Stephens had the house built as a summer home for he and his wife. Oh, what a beautiful place it is. Three stories high; the main part has a rippled roof and service wings. The roof has tiers, turrets, dorms and chimneys. The porch surrounds much

of the first floor. There is a two-story patio with columns around a central flat roofed tower. If you ever get a chance to go see it, be sure to go. Graceland was the summer home of Senator Henry Gassaway Davis. It is of Victorian style and every bit as beautiful as Halliehurst. It is now a restaurant and inn. The Iron Horse is the likeness of and in honor/memory of Senator Gassaway Davis. D&E College is actually Davis and Elkins. The reason their sports team are called the Senator is self-explanatory.





As a gift to the community of Elkins, Henry Gassaway Davis had the Davis Memorial Hospital built; in memory of his wife, Katherine. He made sure it had modern advanced medical equipment. The hospital was a beautiful place and at the front entrance was a huge stone porch with steps leading up to it on both

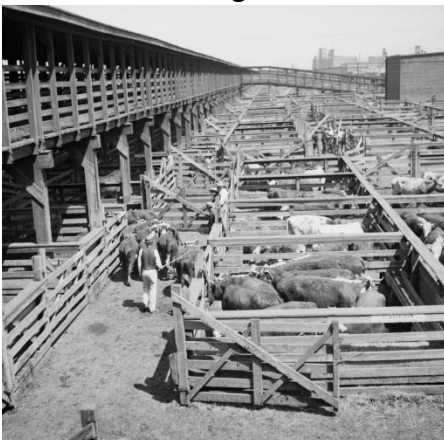


sides. You were in a roomy foyer, that led into the waiting room. It was a large room with the most beautiful marble floor you ever saw. This led back to a larger very high-ceiling area with a circular staircase. At the side (or emergency entrance) there was a tree lined circular driveway, and a large water fountain in the center. It had the largest goldfish you could even imagine.



There was another hospital in town.... The Golden Clinic located on Railroad Avenue behind what is now Elkins City Hall. It was called the Golden Clinic, named for the doctor that owned it—Dr. Golden. In the basement (I was never in this area) was a Fall Out Shelter. There were several throughout the area. They were stocked with food and water and other supplies. There was an official sign posted on the outside of the building to identify it as such. The hospital

itself was another well-built structure that was beautiful. You entered a large foyer and there were some very wide steps. You went up a few and there was a large platform; (I am guessing for resting). Then a few more steps and a set of double doors which took you into the waiting room. Again, marble floors were here and of course they were beautiful.



As a teenager I worked a couple places. I will have to say one of my favorites was for Ruth Conway at the Elkins Stockyards. Ruth was a small lady and yes, I mean lady. She always wore a dress and medium heeled shoe; never hair out of place. She worked in the snack bar until sale time, then she clerked the sale. She wasn't afraid to work. She would jump right in no matter what was needed. Most people, until they got to know her thought she was probably grouchy and stern. In actuality she was very nice. She was stern though. She expected you to be professional and polite. You were to concentrate

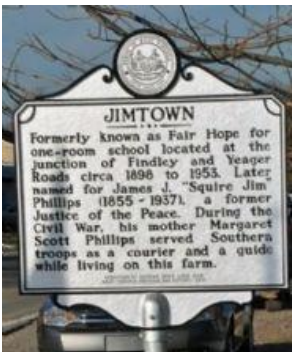
on your customers, not chatting with each other. When things slowed down, she actually was fun. She chatted and laughed as if she was one of us. One day, when business at the snack bar fell off, she told me to come with her. She said I would work the rest of the day at ring side with her. I told her I didn't know a thing about it and she said you can



learn—I will teach you, and she did with patience. At the beginning, I was scared to death. She and her husband, Charlie Conway, owned a tractor supply and sales place right beside the stock yard. When the stock yard closed, they expanded the tractor sales part. It was called CC Conway and that was painted on the roof. Their son also worked there. Everyone called him Buzz or Buzzy. After Mr. Conway passed away, Ruth married Red cooper and moved to Davis, the Canaan Valley are of Tucker County.

Red was previously married to Ida who was kidnapped and brutally murdered by Mills who had just been released from jail on probation. Mills was in jail with Fredrick Hambelton. He demanded Hambelton release.... when that didn't happen, Hambelton grabbed an officer's gun while being booked, shot and wounded West Virginia State Policeman Corporal Marshall Davison and shot and killed West Virginia state police "rookie" trooper Bruce Brown and escaped. My husband and I had just gone to town. Just as we were passing the jail, we saw Hambelton running down the steps. We discussed it briefly, and knew something wasn't right, but we didn't know till about a half hour later what had happened. Tucker County Sheriff, Darl Pine, was also present. Hambleton shot and missed Pine by approximately three inches. The bullet is still lodged in the wall. Pine shot Hambelton in the leg/buttocks. Hambelton urged Mills to commit the murder as a way to bargain the release of Hambelton. Both Mills and Hambelton was sentenced to life in prisons in Moundsville. While there, he and three others dug a tunnel and escaped. He was captured in Oklahoma and is now in Mount Olive. Prior to all this, Hambelton had been living in Beverly.

Do you remember Coach Frank Wimer? He was an award-winning coach; and a giant of a man. He was as kind as could be and he could be comical. When I first met him, he was already retired, but still supported the sports teams. He had won about all coaching award imaginable. His wife was a small woman compared to him and every bit lady and quieter than coach. One day, while out driving together, they saw a hitchhiker. Coach must have recognized him as a former student and picked him up. Sadly, both Coach and his wife were found murdered.



Another murder that sticks in my mind is that of Jimtown resident, Moses Phillips. He was found in his home and unfortunately to this day his murderer has not been found.

Another significant murder happened in 1982; just over the Randolph/Tucker County line. Glenn Roberts and his teenage son, Timothy, were murdered in a double homicide. Glenn Roberts was found right away. Timothy was found about a week later several miles from the scene, just off the roadway in the woods. Hersel "Rusty" Phillips was charged and is serving a life sentence at Mount Olive. There is a book that

raises questions about this.

I recall loud, loud music, disco balls, and black lights. My sister had a disco ball. The way those mirrored small tiles caught and reflected the light was totally amazing. I just had to have a black light. I didn't have the original as they were expensive. I had one that was simply a light bulb that screwed into a lamp socket. With that and my red, loud transistor radio that was ball shaped and played soft country music (as we were not allowed loud music). Man, I thought I was COOL. Looking back now, I laugh. The radio picked up mostly static and a black light that just barely showed lint on your clothes LOL. Oh, I was COOL alright!





When my sister was little, she had a pet rock. She named it Herman. More often than not, it was called Hermie. I will say she took very good care of her little rock. “Hermie” had big google eyes. The pet rock came complete with a cardboard box complete with holes, straw for bedding and a manual with care instructions. I recall later they came out with a pet baby rock. She did not have this, only “Hermie”.

As a child every summer I had to travel to Mississippi, Missouri, and Kansas. About the only two things that got me through those grueling trips were the roadside root beer stands. I never had root beer until then. It was served in a frosty mug and was so cold and so good. The other thing that saved me was the Burma Shave signs. They were a roadside advertising campaign sign; spaced so far apart, featuring humorous jingles to promote brushless shaving cream.



Years ago, I remember (where the mall is—going toward Crystal Springs), that was all just a field. At the entrance sat Jim McCloud’s produce market. In later years they tore it down and built Shoe Show. Then came the development of the mall. Shoe Show was no longer and Long John Silver built there. In conjunction to Shoe show, downtown, there was Fort Pit shoes and Clinton’s Shoes. Montgomery Ward also sold shoes.

Back in the day, television commercials were longer and different than they are today. They had a lot of catchy sayings that caught on and people would say them even when not talking about the product. I would like to share a few with you. Probably one of the most popular was for Life cereal. It is, also, probably the most misunderstood. It’s about a little boy who is a picky eater. Everyone is afraid to try the cereal. In actuality the commercial says: “Give it to Mikey—he hates everything” meaning if he eats it, it must be good. The misunderstanding is most people think it says “give it to Mikey, he eats everything”. It shows the little boy not wanting it, then eating it. Another misunderstood one is for Calgene. It shows a woman relaxing in a bubble both and says “Calgene take me away”. The misconception was “Oh God, take me away”.

Timex---“takes a licking and keeps on ticking”. **Wendy’s**—“where’s the beef”? **Alka Seltzer**—“Plop, plop, fizz, fizz”. **Oscar Mayer Bologna**- known as the most popular and remembered commercial jingle of all time. “My bologna has a first name, it’s O S C A R, my bologna has a second name- it’s M A Y E R”. **Dunkin donuts**- “Time to make the doughnuts”. **Little Caesar**- “Pizza Pizza”. Smokey Bear—“You and only you can prevent forest fires”. **Brylcreem**—“A little dab will do you”. **Folger**—“Good to the last drop”. **Mastercard**—“never leave home without it”. **Double mint gum**-“Double the pleasure, double the fun, double mint gum”. **Charmin**- Mr. Wimple said “Please don’t squeeze the Charmin. Kellogg’s Frosted Flakes—Tony the Tiger says “They’re Grrrrrrreat”. **Dippity doo**- “use your head and Dippity doo”. **Lays**- “Betcha can’t eat just one”. **Jif Peanut Butter**-“Choosy Moms chose Jif”. **Milk Commercial**- “got milk”. **Wheaties**- “Breakfast of Champions”. **Marines**- “the few, the proud the Marines”. **Hallmark**- “When you care enough to send the very best”. **Coca Cola**-“Coke. It’s the real thing”. **State Farm**- “like a good neighbor, State Farm is there”. **Nationwide**-

“Nationwide is on your side”. **Mountain Dew**—“Do the dew”. **M&M**—“Melts in your mouth, not your hands”. **Coca cola**- “I’d like to teach the world to sing in perfect harmony”. There are hundreds more, I am sure. This is what I recall off the top of my head. I hope they brought back some memories for you and you enjoyed them.

Thank you for taking another journey with me. I hope you had as many smiles reading it as I did remembering it. I leave you with these words of wisdom: A wise woman knows when to fight and when to stop a fight.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO ALL

